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Israeli Envoy Linked to Killing Of Latvian Nazi in Montevideo

... posted to The New York Times

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay, the slain former Nazi, was quoted March 9 (UPI). The state police today as having said that he charged today that an Soviet agents might have been involved in his father's death. Montevideo was involved in the murder here of Herbert Albert Cukurs, a Nazi war criminal.

The charge coincided with a wave of anti-Semitism in the aftermath of the slaying. Swastika-marked daubings have appeared on walls reading, "Kill the Communists in Latvia, now a part of the Soviet Union."

Anonymous telephone callers have threatened to bomb synagogues in the city. Police chief Alejandro Otero said he had received a telephone call threatening him with death.

The police said that the slaying of Cukurs, whose body was found at a beach house here last Saturday was an act of "Jewish vengeance," apparently planned originally as a kidnapping. They reported that Cukurs had been slain while strung along with the Israeli diplomat, and four professional criminals hired to kidnap him.

Cukurs was accused at the Nuremberg war crimes trials of having killed 32,000 Latvian Jews in 1941.

His body was found stuffed into a trunk in a bedroom of the beach house. A group calling itself Those Who Shall Never Forget had announced the murder in West Germany and told where the body could be found.

An autopsy today disclosed that Cukurs was killed during the afternoon of Feb. 24, and not Feb. 23 as originally presumed. Death was said to have been caused by repeated blows on the head.

The autopsy also revealed that Cukurs was not shot. Earlier police reports had said he had been shot three times.

The police chief declined to disclose the name of the Israeli diplomat alleged to have been involved in the murder.

Warrants have been issued for the arrest of the diplomat, two Austrians known to have turned out to be foreign fascists prior to Cukurs' murder, and two Frenchmen. All five suspects, however, have since left Montevideo.

Soviet Involvement Reported
SAO PAULO, Brazil, March 9 (API)—Gunnar Cukurs, son of

Gunnar Cukurs worked with his father running an airplane rental and tourist excursion business in São Paulo. The police quoted the younger Cukurs as having said his father had gone to Montevideo Feb. 22 on a business trip.

The elder Cukurs, a Latvian who had joined a Nazi organization, was reported to have come to Brazil in 1946.

Dom Deputies Threatened

BONN, March 9. Many members of the West German Parliament received an anonymous letter today threatening death to any who voted for continued prosecution of Nazi war criminals.

The swastika-headed letters reached the mailboxes of Deputies of the Bundestag or lower house and numerous journalists on the eve of a Parliamentary debate on the statute of limitations on Nazi crimes.

During the debate, coming after weeks of heated public discussion, a solid Parliamentary majority is expected to vote for an extension of the 20-year statute on murder committed under the Nazis. The statute is scheduled to expire May 8, the 20th anniversary of the German surrender in World War II.

Bundestag Deputies have received anonymous Nazi letters containing threats and libel, on several occasions in the past. In some of these cases the senders have been living in the beach house area, prior to Cukurs' murder, and two Frenchmen. All five Death Penalty Ban Defeated
suspects, however, have since left Montevideo.

BOSTON, March 9 (API)—The Massachusetts Senate defeated on a voice vote today a bill to abolish the death penalty in the state. The action was taken without debate.